

REMARKS

The Examiner, in an August 20, 2004 office action, objected to claims 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20 based on informalities in the claim language. Claims 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20 have been rewritten based upon phraseology suggested by the Examiner and are believed to be in condition of allowance. No new matter has been entered by virtue of these amendments.

The Examiner objected to drawing Fig. 2 for the double inclusion of the light source (18). Fig. 2 has been amended to include only one light source (18). Replacement sheets are attached to this Amendment.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as unpatentable over Cook (U.S. Patent No. 2,902,787) in view of Weiner (U.S. Patent No. 4,899,473) under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a). Cook discloses a combination display frame with transparent art pieces and a light means, but does not disclose a plurality of holes. Weiner discloses a plurality of holes in a display frame, but does not disclose a light means to illuminate transparent art pieces. The Examiner considers obvious the modification of Cook by Weiner such that the display frame of Cook would have a plurality of holes.

Applicant's invention discloses more than a display frame with transparent art pieces and a light means as taught by Cook and a plurality of holes as taught by Weiner. Instead, Applicant's invention is combination display frame with a plurality of holes and light means to transmit light through transparent art pieces only. Cook discloses a lighting means that illuminates the entire frame, requiring a light blocking layer to be added around art pieces and frame members not

meant to be illuminated. Unlike the prior art cited by the Examiner, the present invention provides back lighting only of a transparent piece and not the combination frame as a whole. Applicant's backlighting configuration enhances the aesthetic appeal of the backlit transparent piece by focusing the light through the transparent piece only while at the same time maintaining the natural unlit character of the non-transparent pieces.

Moreover, Cook was issued in 1957 and mats having a plurality of holes have been known in the art for at least as long. Despite the Examiner's assertion that such a combination is obvious, in the 46 years since Cook issued, no one has ever combined Cook with a mat having a plurality of holes. It is believed that Cook and a frame with a plurality of holes as described in Weiner have not been combined because such a combination is impracticable. Weiner disclose an opaque backboard (20) with an openable central portion (28). The backing of Weiner is clearly not compatible with the light-diffusing material (4) that acts as the backing in Cook nor the rectangular shaped rear panel (6) of Cook. For these reasons, it is believed that claim 1 and claim 11 are patentable over the prior art and in condition of allowance. Claims 2-10 are dependent upon claim 1 and claims 12-18 are dependant upon claim 11, and it is believed that claims 2-10 and claims 12-18 are also patentable over the prior art and in condition of allowance.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to more particularly point out the inventive features of Applicant's apparatus. Amended claim 1 and claim 11 now clearly point out that only the transparent piece receives back lighting. Claim 11

has been further amended to correct a typographical error in subpart (f). No new matter has been entered by virtue of these amendments.

The Specification has been amended to address objections by the Examiner. Claimed elements that were not included in the drawings are addressed in the amended specification paragraphs. These elements (circuit means, fluorescent light source, securing means, and adhesive material and plurality of clamping devices) are clearly referenced by elements already seen in the drawing and are so well known in the art that illustration of these elements is unnecessary.

It is believed that the Application as a whole is now in condition of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of June 30, 2004, please amend the drawing with the following replacement sheets: